

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended): A method of compiling aerial imagery and generating a map there from comprising:

~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of~~
segmenting the image data into a plurality of patches, the image data acquired from an aerial platform;

digitally watermarking the image data to include imagery characteristics
corresponding to the image data, and wherein said digital watermarking step comprises
embedding a watermark in each of the plurality of patches, the watermark including
imagery characteristics for its respective patch;

correlating the image data based on the imagery characteristics; and
generating a map from the correlated image data.

4. (original): The method according to claim 3, wherein said correlating step comprises adjusting image characteristics for at least one of the plurality of patches so that at least two adjacently positioned patches have similar imagery characteristics.

5. (original): The method according to claim 3, wherein said generating step comprises the step of quilting the plurality of patches together to generate the map.

6. (currently amended): The method according to claim 3, [[1,]] wherein the aerial platform comprises at least one of satellite, airplane, space shuttle, and unmanned aircraft.

7. (currently amended): A method of managing aerial imagery comprising:
~~the steps of:~~

watermarking patches of the aerial imagery, wherein each patch includes at least one watermark, the at least one watermark including an index;

storing in a database a plurality of data records corresponding to a range of watermark indexes, wherein the data records comprise imagery characteristics.

8. (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein said imagery characteristics comprise at least one of scale, rotation, altitude, attitude, resolution, time, imaging device type, and skew.

9. (currently amended): A method of generating a geo-spatial map comprising:
~~the steps of:~~

steganographically encoding data in the form of a digital watermark component in each of a plurality of image patches, said encoded data including a location indicator; and

piecing together the plurality of image patches based at least in part on the encoded location indicators ~~indicator~~ to provide a geo-spatial map including the plurality of image patches.

10. (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator identifies the geo-coordinates of its respective image patch, with each of the plurality of image patches including a unique location identifier representing unique geo-coordinates.

11. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the location indicators identifies the geo-coordinates for at least one corner of its respective patch.


12. (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator identifies a respective patch location relative to the map.

13. (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator identifies the respective patch location within the geo-spatial map relative to at least one adjacent patch.

14. (original): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator comprises an index, and said method further comprises the step of indexing a database with the index to retrieve location information.

15. (currently amended): A method of correlating imagery data generated under a plurality of different conditions, said method comprising: ~~the step of:~~
embedding imagery characteristics in the imagery data; and
modifying the imagery data based on the embedded imagery characteristics so as to standardize at least some of the imagery data.

16. (original): The method according to claim 15, wherein said conditions comprise at least one of aerial platforms, altitude, time, cloud cover, resolution and scale.

 17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein said imagery characteristics affect a spatial domain representation of the imagery data, said imagery characteristics comprising at least one of scale, rotation, altitude, attitude, resolution, time, imaging device type, and skew.

18. (original): The method according to claim 15, wherein said imagery characteristics comprise an index which is used to identify at least one of scale, rotation, altitude, attitude, resolution, time, imaging device type, and skew.

19-40 (canceled)

41. (currently amended): A method of making a map comprising:
~~the steps of:~~

obtaining first geolocation information corresponding to at least a first region to
be depicted by the map; and

digitally watermarking the first geolocation information in the map, wherein said
watermarking step comprises embedding the first geolocation information only in the
first region.

42. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, further comprising
obtaining second geolocation information corresponding to at least a second region to be
depicted by the map and digitally watermarking the second geolocation information in
the map.

43. (previously presented): The method according to claim 42, wherein said the
second geolocation information is only embedded in the second region.

44. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein the first
region comprises at least one of a fire hydrant, tree, road, building, lake, stream, forest,
manhole, water line, gas line, power line, park, property line, fence, boarder, depot,
geographical area, stadium, hospital, school, church, store and airport.

45. (currently amended): A method of making a map comprising:
~~the steps of:~~

obtaining first geovector information corresponding to at least a first region to be depicted by the map; and

digitally watermarking the first geovector information in the map, wherein said watermarking step comprises digitally watermarking the first geovector information redundantly throughout the map.

46. (canceled)

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended): A method of steganographically marking imagery captured from an aerial platform, said method comprising:

obtaining first geolocation information corresponding to a first region depicted in the imagery captured from the aerial platform;

embedding the first geolocation information in the first region in the form of a digital watermark; ~~The method according to claim 46, further comprising~~

obtaining second geolocation information corresponding to at least a second region depicted in the imagery captured from the aerial platform; and

embedding the second geolocation information in the imagery captured from the aerial platform in the form of a digital watermark.

49. (previously presented): The method according to claim 48, wherein the second geolocation information is embedded only in the second region.

50. (currently amended): A method of steganographically marking imagery captured from an aerial platform, said method comprising:

obtaining first geolocation information corresponding to a first region depicted in the imagery captured from the aerial platform;

embedding the first geolocation information in the imagery captured from the aerial platform in the form of a digital watermark, The method of claim 46, wherein the first geolocation information is redundantly embedded in the imagery captured from the aerial platform.
